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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS

Letter dated 2 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement delivered by Ambassador J. P. Roux to the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on 23 February 1993.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annexure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 14 and 59 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Ambassador of South Africa to the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, held from 22 to 26 February 1993

Thank you for this opportunity, which is my first, to address this meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and myself, I look forward to continued and fruitful association with the Board of Governors, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and all its associated committees and bodies. I also wish at this stage to join other distinguished speakers before me in their remarks directed at Mr. Jennekens, the departing Deputy Director-General. We wish him all success in his new endeavour.

South Africa, since the establishment of IAEA in 1957, has maintained sound relations with the organization. Since acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and concluding a Safeguards Agreement with IAEA in 1991, South Africa has gone out of its way to assist the verification team in its task and has willingly complied with any request for access and information, even outside the requirements of the Safeguards Agreement.

South Africa is firmly in favour of greater transparency in all nuclear matters and will support, in principle, any initiatives by the Board in this regard.

Consequently South Africa is prepared, in principle, to participate in the Universal Reporting Scheme envisaged in document GOV/2629 that is now before the Board. The practical implications of South Africa's participation, while some nuclear sanctions are still in existence, are being investigated. The South African Atomic Energy Corporation is also in the process of obtaining the views of South African uranium producers on this matter. Full implementation by South Africa of this proposal will also have to be preceded by enabling legislation.

Should the core reporting list, however, become administratively cumbersome, costly or difficult to implement practically in future, it could inhibit South Africa's full participation. I am sure that many other countries have similar concerns. This is a matter that needs further attention.

Mr. Chairman, in the light of South Africa's commitment to greater transparency, and thus also nuclear non-proliferation, as indicated by me with regard to South Africa's envisaged participation in the Universal Reporting System, please allow me to very briefly also make a few general remarks. The lifting of the European Community's nuclear sanctions against South Africa will pave the way for South Africa's participation in the Zangger Committee and Nuclear Suppliers' Group. I look forward to the day when South Africa will not only be a member of those organizations, but will also participate fully in their deliberations.

As regards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Africa, South Africa, as a member of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Energy (AFRA), recently proposed six so-called

Footnote a projects. These will hopefully be implemented after the annual Congress of the African Regional Agreement in Kenya in April 1993.

South Africa will fully support the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Nuclear Committee of OAU when it meets in April in Harare to draft a convention on the denuclearization of Africa. South Africa unequivocally endorses a nuclear-weapons-free zone in Africa.

In conclusion, this commitment to non-proliferation was echoed by Mr. R. F. Botha, our Foreign Minister, at the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Paris on 14 January 1993:

> "South Africa has already acceded to the NPT and concluded a Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. We are also party to the Biological Weapons Convention. In addition, South Africa is prepared to adhere to the Missile Technology Control Regime and, with the approval of other countries, to become a member. The world therefore knows that South Africa fully accepts its global and regional responsibilities and is committed to non-proliferation and disarmament."